

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections with respect the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

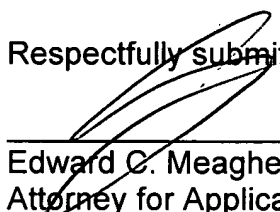
Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of allowance of claims 5-7, 12-14 and 19-20 over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent for including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claims 4 and 5 which, as indicated, should put claims 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 in condition for allowance. Likewise, claim 8 has been amended according to the Examiner's indication of allowance and now includes the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 which should place claims 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14 in condition for allowance. Claim 15 has also been amended according to the Examiner's indication of allowance and now includes the subject matter of claims 18 and 19 which should place claims 15, 16, 17 and 20 in condition for allowance. Claim 20 has also been amended to depend from claim 15.

Claims 21 and 22 have been added and combine the subject matter of claims 1 and 6 and claims 1 and 7, respectively, which were also deemed allowable by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the present application, namely, claims 1, 2, 3, 6-10, 13-17 and 20 and new claims 21 and 22 are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references and the other prior art references of record.

Accordingly, action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner should have any questions or comments or would like to discuss the merits of the present application with Applicant's attorney of record, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's attorney of record at the phone number listed below at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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